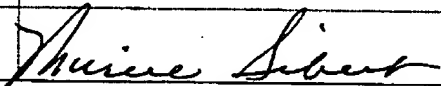


"Official"

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION			
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail on the date indicated below in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents; P.O. Box 1450; Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents.			
Name (Print/Type)	Muriel Sibert	Fax # (if faxed)	(703) 872-9306
Signature		Date	January 13, 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER**

Appl. No. : 09/990,244
Applicant : Brian W. Hedrick et al.
Filed : November 21, 2001
TC/A.U. : 1764
Examiner : James Arnold, Jr.

Confirmation No. 1968

JAN 13 2004

OFFICIAL

Docket No. : 106010
Customer No. : 23490

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT "B"

Sir:

In reply to the Office action of September 30, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.